ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a arrays of nucleic acid and methods of screening these arrays for desired nucleotide sequences. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a desired cDNA clone can be obtained in three or less rounds of PCR screening. A master plate containing a population of cDNA, distributed in a plurality of wells, is screened for a desired clone by PCR. After a master well containing the desired cDNA is identified, a second plate containing a cDNA array of the master well can then be screened using the same PCR primers. Since the second plate contains about 50-fold to 100-fold fewer clones than the master plate, an expedient reduction in the number of candidates can be achieved in a single PCR step. The invention also relates to a super-master plate containing at least two, preferably more, different populations of cDNA obtainable from different sources of mRNA.